United Nations A/HRC/25/NGO/4

General Assembly

Distr.: General
19 February 2014

English only

Human Rights Council
Twenty-fifth session
Agenda item 3
Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the Child Foundation, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[09 February 2014]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.14-11066
1411066

Please recycle

Equal education and training opportunities for all Children

Providing access to equal educational and training opportunities for all citizens will prepare children for their individual and social life while paving the way for comprehensive and coordinated growth of their personality and providing necessary grounds for the realization of their human dignity. Therefore, not only the international treaties and conventions, but also the holy religion of Islam, and the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, have put special emphasis on the right of the child to education.

Paragraph 3 of Article 3 and Article 30 of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Constitution, have obligated the government to provide free education, training and physical education for all people up to the end of high school.
Article 28 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child says, "*States Parties recognize the right of the child to education, and with a view to achieving this right progressively and on the basis of equal opportunity, they shall, in particular: (a) Make primary education compulsory and available free to all; (b) Encourage the development of different forms of secondary education, including general and vocational education, make them available and accessible to every child, and take appropriate measures such as the introduction of free education and offering financial assistance in case of need....*"
Article 52 of Iran's Fourth Economic Development Plan Act has also made compulsory "education up to the end of junior high school, in proportion to facilities provided and in a gradual manner" in order to encourage students to attend classes regularly and reduce dropout rate. On this basis, development of knowledge and skill and promotion of the productivity of human capital, especially that of girls, as well as qualitative and quantitative development of general education have been underlined.

Child Foundation, as a nongovernmental and pioneer organization in the area of educating talented but impoverished children in Iran, believes that financial resources and facilities are not all that it takes to realize the national education goals and programs. However, achieving these goals requires creation of a suitable education culture in cooperation with all people in the society, so that, all officials and managers would feel responsible for the provision of suitable and fair conditions for the attraction and support of children who need education. As a result, we believe that trans-sectoral thinking in this area and taking advantage of all the available facilities and capacities for the realization of educational goals for all people is what the present-day Iranian society needs to achieve the 20-year perspective that has been delineated in macro development documents of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
At present, "National Education for All Program," which is under way in Iran, has adopted the following strategies to achieve its goals:

1. Strong commitment at national and international levels to Education for All Program,
2. Promoting education-for-all policies with the main goal of eliminating poverty and facilitating development,
3. Committed intervention and participation by the civil society in the formulation, implementation, and supervision over education development strategies;
4. Introducing accountable, participatory, and responsible educational leadership and management,
5. Attention to promotion of mutual understanding and tolerance while avoiding violence and conflict in the formulation of educational programs,
6. Gender equality and change of gender-based attitudes, values and procedures,
7. Implementing education programs to fight AIDS,
8. Creation of safe and sound educational environments and equitable distribution of facilities.

While supporting these goals, **Child Foundation** draws special attention of all institutions active in educating children to the issues of "labor children" and "talented but impoverished children." We believe that not only in Iran, but at international level, special attention should be paid to education of children who, for any reason, have no access to education. Covering about 10,000 talented children with financial problems by **Child Foundation** and providing

educational and recreational facilities for them and their families is another golden page in honorable efforts that this organization has made to improve conditions and situation of Iranian children.
We believe that eradication of illiteracy among children, especially poor children, will cause them to appear more constructive in the future for the promotion and growth of the public culture, and will prove that under equal conditions, they would be able to develop their talent, personal judgment, as well as their understanding of ethical and social responsibility.

Child Foundation takes this opportunity to ask responsible organs of the United Nations, regional and country UN offices that are active in education, as well as nongovernmental institutions working for children in other countries to share their experiences in eliminating child illiteracy. By doing this, they will not only help to promote this effort in other countries, but also pave the way for a purposive effort aimed to improve statistics on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals in developing and less-developed countries.
We also take this opportunity to declare our readiness to take part in any kind of initiative between non-governmental organizations and regional and country offices of the United Nations, especially in the Middle East region, which will help to reduce poverty and deprivation among children while providing them with necessary educational facilities.